

PERSEUS AND MEDUSA

Ancient Wonder Story as
Elucidated By Bacon

IS EXPLAINED TO APPLY

To the Present War By an In-
genious Oklahoman.

Stillwater, O. T., May 27.—To the Editor of the Eagle:—About three hundred years ago the most profound and searching intellect that ever dwelt among men gave to the world, in "The Wisdom of the Ancients," a rational explanation of some of the stories of the Grecian mythology. One of these explanations dealt with the story of Perseus cutting off the head of Medusa, that frightful female head which turned men to stone who gazed upon it. Bacon interprets this fable as describing the art and judicious conduct of war, and this particular essay is well worth reading at this time in connection with our own war with Spain. The essay is entitled "Perseus, or War," and opens as follows:

"Perseus was sent, it is said, by Pallas, to cut off the head of Medusa, from whom many nations in the westernmost parts of Spain suffered grievous calamities: a monster so dreadful and horrible that the mere sight of her turned men to stone."

"It seems from this that our enemy is the original Medusa, and is still putting her ancient and devilish practices in effect upon her unfortunate subjects in the West Indies the usual calamities. Continuing, Bacon says:

"By way of equipment for this noble exploit, Perseus received arms and gifts from several different gods. Mercury gave him wings for his feet. Pluto gave him a helmet; Pallas a shield and mirror. And yet so well provided and equipped as he was he did not proceed against Medusa directly, but went out of his way to visit the Gorgons, who were half-sisters of the Gorgons."

Perseus is, evidently, my prophetic soul—our Uncle Samuel! He has been given by congress—the three gods of Republicanism, Democracy and Populism—the wings of steam for his heels, the helmet of armored battle ships, and the shield and mirror of coast defense. And yet, so well provided and equipped as he is, he did not proceed against Spain directly, but against her half-sister, the Philippines, and cut off her head the first stroke. "He found her asleep," says Bacon, and that really seems to have been the Spanish admiral was being when the reverberations of Dewey's cannon broke upon the early morning air.

"The severed head was fixed by Perseus in Pallas' shield, where it still retained its power of striking, as if as thunder or planet-stricken, all who looked upon it."

Of course this has reference to the fixing of the Philippines in the shield of Uncle Sam's possessions, and as a fearful lesson to any power who may be inclined to get away, or to look upon the severed head with covetous eyes. France will please pinch herself to see if she is awake.

Bacon further tells us that the fable sets forth three sound and weighty precepts to guide the deliberations in determining what kind of a war should be chosen, and says:

"The first is, not to take any great trouble for the subjugation of the neighboring nations. . . . In private property, the vicinity of estates to each other is of importance, but in extending an empire, occasion and facility of carrying the war through, and value of conquest, should be regarded instead of vicinity."

According to this rule we are all right in capturing the distant Philippines. The "occasion" was there, and the "facility" with which Dewey seized it should satisfy the most fastidious and cautious war critic. The "value of conquest" seems also up to the limit. It will yield \$150,000,000 per annum to help carry on the war, and ought, if properly handled, to pay the entire national debt.

"And thereupon Perseus, though he belonged to the East, did not decline a distant expedition to the uttermost parts of the West."

Emphatically correct, Mr. Bacon! That's the kind of Perseus our Uncle Samuel is, to a great deal. We are not declining anything this war, but if somebody does not give our Spanish Medusa a private tip we are likely to take everything in sight. The American Perseus is bald-headed, and has claws, and when he screams it is a sign of trouble in the earth.

"The second is that there be a just and honorable cause for the war, for this begets alacrity as well in the soldiers themselves, as in the people, from whom the supplies come."

"Just cause for war?" "Alacrity?" Why, those are our strong points. There is nothing in history more secure than the position of the United States in these respects? An insupportable nuisance in our back yard in the shape of a liberty-loving people suffering under infamous atrocities that would bring a blush of shame to the cheek of the "unspotted Turk" himself, a noble vessel, lying at peace and freighted with brave boys in blue, sent to the bottom of the ocean by the cowardly hand of an assassin! And the world observe the voting by congress of the \$50,000,000? No one can say there was a lack of alacrity there. Our soldiers threaten to mutiny unless the squadron move, and our soldiers have to be tied to keep them from jumping into the gulf and swimming to Cuba.

"Also it opens the way for alliances and conciliates friends."

"This is a dead easy allegory and prophecy combined. Isn't the way opening for an alliance with England? Talk about friends! Aren't England and the United States a regular Damon and Pythias?"

"Now," continues the author, "there is no cause for war more plain than the overthrow of a tyranny under which the people live prostrate without spirit or vigor, as if turned to stone by the bead of Medusa."

A plous war, is it? Then your Uncle Samuel stands pat. This war is saturated with piety. Our soldiers and sailors are priests, friars, monks and missionaries. Every battleship is a church, where every call to quarters is divine service.

Every shriek of a shell is a hymn, every roar of a British gun is a prayer, and every exploded Spanish magazine is a benediction. When it comes to plume more we are the original soul-savers. All we want is to get our clerical hands upon a Spanish fleet, and we will baptize it in "the bosom of the deep." Piety? Of course. Remember the Maine!

"Nor is the circumstance that those who win were for the heels and not for the shoulders without an allegorical meaning and a very wise one. For it is not in the first attack so much as in those that follow up and support the first, that swiftness is required, and there is no error more common in war than that of not pressing on the secondary and subsidiary actions with an activity answerable to the beginning."

These are wise words for our modern Perseus to ponder, and there is danger of violating the rules of the allegory, and of committing an error that will carry in its train grave consequences. The victor of Dewey's beginning is a thing of beauty and a joy forever, but much time has been consumed in supporting him, according to his request, and of moving upon Havana. Make your heels fly, Mr. Perseus; you have the wings. Never mind a few skulls and dodging Spanish warships. The fable states that when the Medusa head was cut off there sprang forth from the blood a winged Pegasus, and Bacon, explaining this part of the allegory, says:

"The conclusion of the war is followed by two effects; first, the birth and springing up of Pegasus, which obviously denotes fame flying abroad and celebrating the victory. Second, the carrying of Medusa's head upon the shield, for this is incomparably the best kind of a safeguard. A single brilliant and memorable exploit, happily conceived and accomplished, paralyzes all the enemy's movements, and makes malice itself."

The effect of our Uncle Samuel's effort seems to be strictly according to the rules of the allegory. There seems to have been a "victory" at Manila, and the trumpet of fame has sounded some good blows in honor thereof. The general consensus of opinion seems to be that "Dewey is a daisy." His exploit will be "memorable" in history, and no more memorable than "brilliant." It seems to have been "happily conducted" and to have all the elements of a "paralyzer" upon the enemy, and if any foreign powers have a tooth of malice against us, they had best pluck it out, for in the game of war your Uncle Samuel has never been mated. F. C. HUNT.

ALVA'S NORMAL ENJOINED

Long Threatened Proceedings Have Been Begun.

Guthrie, O. T., May 27.—Special.—As foretold in the dispatches to the Eagle two weeks ago, papers were today issued from the district clerk's office enjoining the board of regents of the normal school from proceeding further with the construction of the Alva normal school building. The plaintiffs are H. Overholser, T. W. Williamson and Eugene Walcott, three wealthy taxpayers of Oklahoma, Guthrie, and Virgil Hobbs, a well-known politician of Kingfisher. Horace Spohn of Guthrie is the attorney representing the plaintiffs.

REPORT ON ROSENBAUM

Holds Him Responsible For Two Hundred Dollars Worth of Stores.

Guthrie, O. T., May 27.—Special.—The military board of survey appointed by the governor to examine the accounts of Phil C. Rosenbaum, late adjutant general and quartermaster, has completed its labors and filed its report, which will not be made public, however, until the governor has had an opportunity to examine its contents. Large quantities of military stores are missing, but the report exculpates Rosenbaum, with the exception of supplies amounting to something over \$200, for which the board of survey holds him responsible.

Fire Near Manchester, O. T.

Manchester, O. T., May 27.—Special.—The residence of Adam Burg, five miles south of this city, was totally destroyed last night by fire. None of the household goods was saved but a trunk of clothes.

Good Times About El Reno.

El Reno, O. T., May 27.—Special.—Yesterday and today were the busiest days our wholesale merchants have had since last fall. Two hundred and twenty-five wagon loads of wheat, oats and corn were sold in this city. The trade came from around Anapah, Cloud Chief and points west. The wagon loads came in loaded with grain and filled with groceries and farm implements.

TWO CENTURIES AND A HALF

Since the Westminster Confession of Faith Was Adopted.

Winona Lake, Ind., May 26.—Routine business was laid aside by the Presbytery of Winona Lake yesterday and today was given to a celebration of the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Westminster confession of faith. The last speaker on the afternoon program was former Governor James A. Beaver, of Pennsylvania. In closing he remarked feelingly, pointing to the national emblem that he had lately seen federal and Confederate generals marching under the same banner.

General Beaver grew pale and almost fell to the platform, but, grasping the pulpit he exclaimed: "God speed the day when the southern and northern Presbyteries shall unite to carry forth the gospel of the son of God, as our national forces have united, north and south, to carry freedom to the ends of the earth."

The effect proved too much for the Presbyterian veteran, and he fell back fainting into a chair. The scene caused considerable commotion and order was only restored by the announcement that General Beaver had recovered.

A large attendance had been advertised, but it failed to materialize, when the assembly began, through which baskets were in evidence. The commissioners to the assembly were late in being seated, many being accustomed to omit the preliminary devotional exercises. The exercises of the day had the Westminster standards as their objective point.

Two interesting incidents occurred at the opening. An oaken gavel and granite block from Westminster Abbey were presented for the use of the assembly. Later Dr. William C. Gray presented an oil portrait of Alexander Henderson, the leader of the Scotch commissioners to the Westminster assembly and author of the famous "Solomon League and Covenant" of Scotland.

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TO RENT A HOUSE.
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ANYTHING TO RENT.

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To the People
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FOR SALE—If you want to buy a first-class American hall engine from 20 to 4-horse power, call on or address R. P. Murdock, Business Manager, Wichita Eagle & Argonaut. Engine guaranteed first-class. 9-11

FOR SALE—Good family horse and phaeton. Inquire at room 5, 235 S. Main. 9-11

FOR SALE—Choice Poland China boxes. E. Barton, Wichita, Kan. 5-11

FOR RENT—Rooms. For rent—Four partly-furnished rooms of first floor, for light house-keeping. 232 N. Market. 9-11

FOR RENT—Newly furnished rooms. 140 N. Topeka. 10-11

FOR RENT—Houses. For rent—An 8-room house, all modern improvements. No. 215 W. Third. Mrs. E. Kober. 9-11

FOR RENT—Eight-room house, 515 East William, suitable for boarding. E. L. Spencer. 9-11

FOR RENT—Furnished house, for the summer, all modern conveniences and location. Mrs. A. J. Bell, No. 154 N. Topeka. 6-11

FOR RENT—Houses in all parts of the city. Hills & Kinkead, over 143 N. Market St. 9-11

FOR RENT—Store room 127 N. Main street, 140 feet deep, with up-stairs, 30 feet deep. R. H. Roy, 219 E. Douglas. 10-11

STOLEN. FINANCIAL. MONEY TO LOAN—On farm or city property, at 10 per cent per annum. Simple interest. No delay. V. P. Caffrey, Agent, Royal Loan Association, St. Joseph, Mo. Office, 201 N. Main street, Wichita, Kan. 9-11

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FOR SALE—HOUSES. For sale—A new two-story brick cottage, good style. This house cost about \$1,000 to build—it's the only house of this kind in the city. If you want a good cottage, come and see us. Price, \$500. Hartford Investment Co. 4-11

FOR SALE—Two-story brick, 120 West Douglas, well rented. \$1,000. E. L. Spencer. 9-11

FOR SALE—A few choice improved farms at a bargain. Easy terms. 40-43-45 Sedgwick block. Wins & Wins. 10-11

PERSONAL. PERSONAL—Will the party in whose care a telescope value was left please send his address to David Adams, 201 South Water street. 5-11

PERSONAL—Persons sufficiently educated graduated immediately in medicine or dentistry. Lock box 194, Chicago. 5-11

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE. MISCELLANEOUS. WANT 100 SELECT FARM LOANS, Kansas or Oklahoma, Within Thirty Days. L. W. CLAPP, Wichita. 9-11

Wanted—A competent girl for general housework. Must be first-class. Mackey's Drug store. 8-11

Wanted—A good girl for general housework, at 428 N. Emporia. 6-11

SITUATION WANTED—FEMALE. HELP WANTED—FEMALE. WANTED—A girl to do second work in the house. Mrs. M. C. Campbell, 1113 N. Emporia avenue. 5-11

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